BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BC Stats

Infoline

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Issue: 07-49

December 7th, 2007

- **BC's unemployment rate falls to 4.2% in November**
- **For 27% of British Columbians, mother tongue is Chinese, Punjabi or other foreign languages**
- **More than a quarter of British Columbians are immigrants**

Labour Force Survey

- **The province's unemployment rate fell to 4.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month.** The decline in the jobless rate came about as employment (+1.1%) grew faster than the number of people either working or looking for work (+0.9%).

  The number of jobs in the province's goods sector jumped (+1.9%) in November, as employment in the construction industry (+6.4%) picked up speed after declining in the previous month. For the second consecutive month, manufacturing shed a portion of its workforce (-0.8%). While employment in forestry, fishing & mining was virtually unchanged, the number of workers in the utilities industry fell (-1.6%).

  The service sector expanded 0.9% in November. Eight out of eleven industries added to their workforce, with information, culture & recreation (+7.5%), transportation & warehousing (+4.8%) and management & administration (+3.7%) posting the largest increases. While gains in employment were made in public administration (+1.2%), education services (+1.1%) and professional, scientific & technical services (+0.9%), fewer were employed in the trade (-0.8%) and health care & social assistance (-0.7%) industries. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Unemployment was down in most regions, with jobless rates ranging from 1.6% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) in Northeast to 8.1% in North Coast/Nechako.** Rates in Vancouver Island/Coast (3.4%), Northeast (1.6%) and Cariboo (4.2%) reached their lowest point in more than a decade. In North Coast/Nechako, the jobless rate rose to 8.1%. The job market improved in Thompson/Okanagan (3.8%) and Kootenay (5.7%) as employment increased in both regions while gains were also made in Mainland/Southwest, where the unemployment rate fell to 3.9%. Victoria (2.8%) and Vancouver (3.9%), continued to see their rates fall.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canada's unemployment rate inched 0.1 percentage points higher to 5.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** The most notable increases in employment were made in New Brunswick (+1.5%), British Columbia (+1.1%) and Saskatchewan (+1.0%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Census 2006

- **People whose mother tongue is neither English nor French (allophones) made up over a quarter (27%) of the province's population, in 2006, up from 25% in 2001.** BC's proportion of allophones was higher than in any other province, just slightly above Ontario (27%). Nationally, 20% of Canadians had a mother tongue other than English or French, up from 18% five years prior. Just over four out of 10 residents (41%) in the Vancouver census metropolitan area (CMA) were allophones, compared with 38% in 2001. Of those allophones, 332,000, (or 38%), have a Chinese language as their mother tongue. The three other largest language groups were Punjabi (122,000 people or 14%), Tagalog (52,000 or 6%) and Korean (42,000 5%). The province's other census metropolitan areas of Abbotsford (28%), Victoria (13%) and Kelowna (13%) had comparatively lower proportions of allophone residents.

  Source: 2006 Census

- **BC is a popular destination for immigrants, with approximately 16% of the 1.1 million new immigrants who came to Canada during the past five years settling in the province.** Ontario (52%) attracted the most immigrants between 2001 and 2006, and Quebec (18%) was the next most popular province of destination for new

Did you know...
A quarter (25%) of beer drinkers in BC rely on public transportation to get them home safely after a night on the town *Source: Ipsos Canada*

Canadians. British Columbia's population had the second-highest proportion of foreign-born individuals of all the provinces.

The census enumerated 1,119,200 foreign-born individuals in British Columbia in 2006. They accounted for just under 28% of the province's population, up from 26% in 2001. The province's proportion of foreign-born population in 2006 was second only to Ontario, where the foreign-born represented 28% of the population.

Source: 2006 Census

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities surged ahead (+37.4%, *seasonally adjusted*) in October, more than recovering from a 19.4% drop in September.** Permits for residential projects jumped (+38.0%) and were also up for other types of buildings (+35.7%). Planned spending for commercial projects soared 61.1% and also increased for institutional & government buildings (+6.5%). However, the value of permits issued for industrial projects (-13.6%) saw a downturn from September. Non-residential permits have been volatile this year, and the latest increase followed a similar decline (-39.2%) in September.

  Kelowna (-7.1%) and Victoria (-40.0%) were the only census metropolitan areas in the province to see declines in the value of building permits issued in October. Permits for building projects were up substantially in Vancouver (+81.6%) following the end of the civic workers' strike and doubled in Abbotsford (+100.6%).

  Canadian permits climbed 6.8%, as increased activity in Alberta (+12.0%), Quebec (+13.0%), parts of Atlantic Canada and BC offset slowdowns in Ontario (-6.8%), and three other provinces. The value of non-residential permits issued in Canada jumped 19.3% in October, while permits for residential projects (+0.1%) were relatively flat. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, the value of building permits issued in BC was 12.5% higher than in the first ten months of 2006.** Planned spending on construction projects was up in all regions of the province except Northeast (-10.1%), which experienced a substantive downturn in commercial projects (-60.9%). Among other regions, Vancouver Island/Coast (+0.6%) was the only one to post a less-than-double-digit gain. North Coast (+47.9%) recorded the biggest increase in activity, followed by Nechako (+35.7%), Cariboo (+34.0%) and Kootenay (+22.9%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Environment

- **The national concentration of ground-level ozone, a key component of smog, increased 12% from 1990 to 2005.** Among five regions studied, ozone concentrations were lowest in the Fraser Valley. The highest levels were recorded in Southern Ontario.

  Greenhouse gas emissions rose 25% between 1990 and 2005, to 33% above the Kyoto Protocol target for 2008 to 2012 (the target was set below the level of emissions in 1990). Energy production and consumption accounted for 82% of total Canadian greenhouse gas emissions in 2005, and 90% of the growth in emissions since 1990.

  However, emissions of CO_2 equivalent per unit of GDP dropped 17% from 1990 to 2005, largely due to efficiency improvements in the energy sector. In BC, emissions are lower than in the other large provinces, but they have increased since 1990. Alberta and Ontario had the highest emissions of all.

  In terms of water quality, most surface freshwater in Canada was rated as either "excellent or good" (44%) or "fair" (33%). About 23% of sites tested were rated "marginal or poor", meaning that they either exceeded guidelines for pollutant levels often, or by a considerable amount. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Christmas Shopping

- **With average per capita spending of $915, consumers in BC were the third-biggest spenders among the provinces in December 2006.** On average, Canadians spent $874 each in retail stores last December, well above the monthly average of $630 over the rest of the year. Albertans outshopped the rest of the country, spending an average of $1,113, while shoppers in Quebec spent the least ($791).

  Data Source: SC, Catalogue 11-621-MIE2007065

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Environmental Statistics Issue 07-2

Recycling in B.C.

With British Columbia's healthy economy and expanding population comes increasing concern over the amount of waste produced, its handling and its impact on the environment. Landfills across the country are reaching capacity and it is becoming more challenging to locate sites for new ones.[1] The recycling of materials and packaging can considerably reduce the quantity of waste entering landfills and contribute to the protection of natural resources. Landfill sites produce about 25% of Canada's total methane emissions, which as a greenhouse gas is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

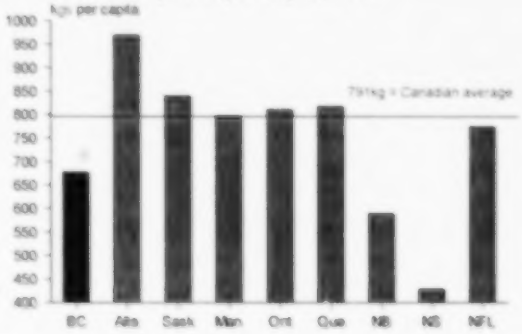
Waste production is increasing

In 2004, households across the country produced 13.4 million tonnes of waste, nearly three-quarters (73%) of which was sent for disposal, while the remainder was recycled.[2]

Municipalities and businesses in BC disposed of 2.8 million tonnes of waste in 2004. This was an increase of 5.7% over 2002, higher than the national increase (+5.0%) over the same period. Of this waste, approximately 1.0 million tonnes came from residential sources with the remainder (1.8 million) disposed of by non-residential sources. Residential waste disposal in the province increased by 60 thousand tonnes (+7.8%) between 2002 and 2004, while non-residential waste[3] disposal increased at a slightly slower pace (+4.6%). While some of the overall increase in waste disposal was due to a rise in population, most was a result of increases in the amount of waste generated per person.

British Columbians produced 653 kg per person of residential waste in 2002; by 2004, this figure had increased to 676 kg per person. The per capita increase was again more significant than that for Canada as a whole (+2.8%). However, by way of comparison, the overall waste disposal per capita remained considerably lower than the national average (791 kg per capita) in 2004.

BC ranks third lowest in the country for waste disposed per capita, 2004



Data Source: Statistics Canada

note: data for PEI not available

Recycling is on the rise

While the overall disposal of waste has been increasing in recent years, recycling has simultaneously become more common. Access to recycling programs across the country has improved considerably of late and Canadians are recycling significantly larger quantities.[4]

1 Environment Canada, 2003, The 4 R's -Reduce, reuse, Recycle and Recover, www.atl.ec.gc.ca/udo/reuse.html

2 Statistics Canada, 2007, Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors, Cat. No. 16-F0023-XIE.

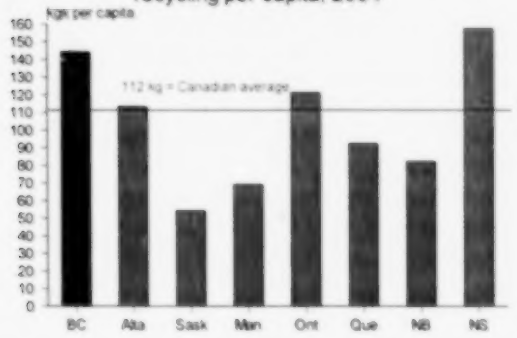
3 Non-residential waste includes municipal solid non-hazardous waste generated by industrial, commercial and institutional sources as well as waste generated by construction and demolition activities.

4 Residential recyclable materials consist of solid non-hazardous materials produced in residences including materials that are picked up by the municipality (either using its own staff or through contracting firms) and materials from residential sources that are self-hauled to depots, transfer stations and disposal facilities. Data do not cover any wastes that are managed on-site by the waste generator.

In 2004, 31% of the total non-hazardous waste generated in BC was diverted[5] from disposal, significantly higher than the national average (24%). Nova Scotia (36%) and PEI (35%) had the highest diversion rates, while Saskatchewan (14%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (8%) had by far the lowest. On a per capita basis BC leads the provinces in diverting waste from landfills (298 kg per capita), followed by Quebec (282 kg per capita).

BC is a also a leader among the provinces for recycling, with residents recycling substantially more than the average Canadian. The average British Columbian recycled approximately 144kg of material in 2004, up substantially from 2002 (121kg). BC was second only to Nova Scotia (157kg) in residential recycling per capita and far exceeded the national average (112kg). Saskatchewan residents recycled an average of just 54kg per capita in 2004, the lowest rate in the country.

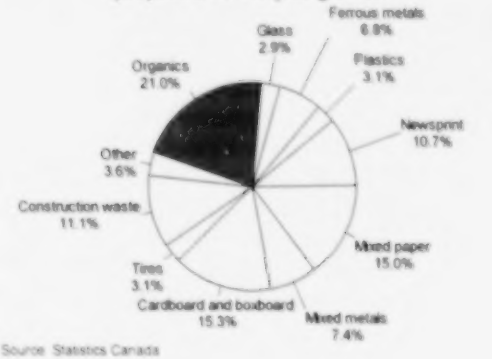
BC ranks second in the country for residential recycling per capita, 2004



Data Source: Statistics Canada note: data for PEI and Newfoundland not available

By weight, organics comprise the largest portion of recycled materials in the province, accounting for approximately 21% of recycled materials from all sources in 2004. This was followed by mixed paper and cardboard and boxboard (each 15%).

Organics make up the largest portion of materials prepared for recycling in BC



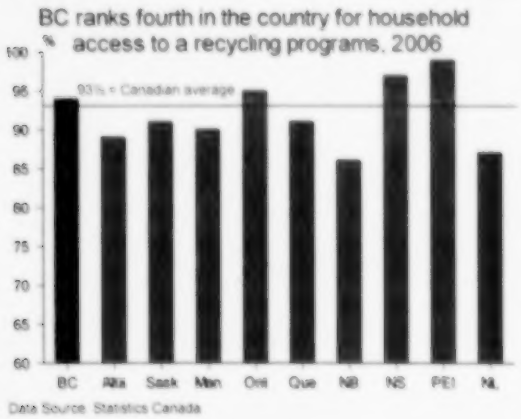
Source: Statistics Canada

Household access to and use of recycling programs is becoming more prevalent

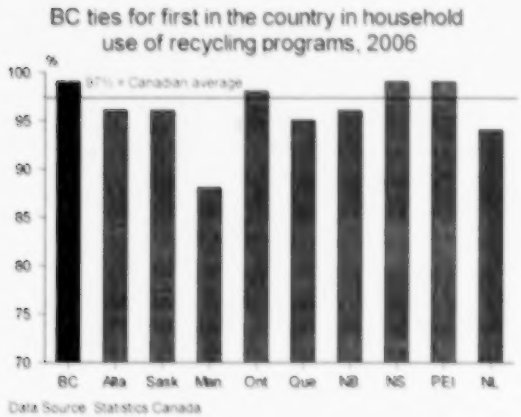
The availability of recycling programs differs from province to province and between municipalities. Materials such as paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, yard and food waste can be recycled or composted. Varying degrees of access to recycling programs are likely to impact provincial and municipal rates of recycling.

In 2006, 94% of BC' households had access to at least one form of recycling program. Of these households, 99% made use of at least one of the programs. Across the country, there was considerable variability in access to and use of recycling programs. With 99% of households reporting having access to and making use of at least one recycling program, Prince Edward Island scored the highest in the country for both access and utilization.

[5] Diversion represents the sum of all materials processed for recycling or reuse at an off-site recycling or composting facility (i.e. the quantity of materials diverted from disposal facilities.)



Among other provinces where households reported comparatively high rates of access to recycling programs were Nova Scotia (97%) and Ontario (95%). Usage of one or more programs was also high in those regions. On the other side of the scale, provinces that lagged in terms of access to recycling programs included New Brunswick (86%), Newfoundland and Labrador (87%) and Alberta (89%). However, given access, over 90% of households in these provinces used at least one recycling program. Three other provinces reported overall access rates below that of the national average (93%). Manitobans were the least likely to recycle, with 90% of households having access to programs, yet only 88% of those actually recycled.

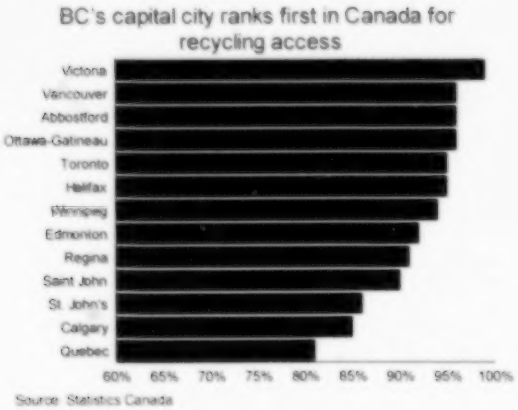


Further variability among provinces exists in terms of the type of recycling programs available to households. In general, provinces offered reasonably wide-ranging access to recycling programs for different materials. Access to glass and paper recycling programs (each 88%) in Canada was most common, while 87% had access to plastic recycling, and 86% to metal cans. Program access was relatively stable among the provinces with access to recycling programs for most materials hovering between approximately 80% and 99%.

However, one noteworthy exception was found in Newfoundland & Labrador, which could explain that province's low overall accessibility rates. A mere 35% of households had access to paper recycling, and just 61% had access to metal recycling. Glass (75%) and plastic (72%) recycling programs were also less common than in other parts of the country.

Households in BC were the most likely (99%) in the country (tied with Nova Scotia) to use recycling programs for all recyclable materials, providing they had access. Use of recycling in the province was 96% for glass, paper and plastic, and 95% for metal cans.

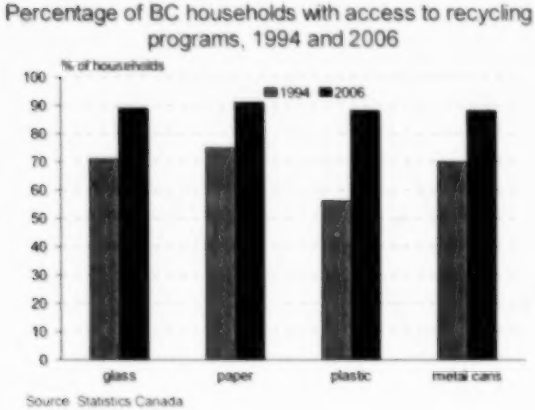
Last year, BC's largest cities were among the highest ranked in the country in terms of accessibility and use of recycling programs. In fact, at 99%, households in the province's capital city outranked every other census metropolitan area (CMA) in Canada in terms of overall recycling access. Abbotsford and Vancouver (each 96%) were also among the highest in the country. Access to recycling programs for glass, paper, plastics and metal cans were 90% or higher in all three cities. However, accessibility rates for plastics (89%) and metal (88%) recycling in Abbotsford were slightly lower. The CMAs with the lowest rate of access to recycling programs in 2006 were Quebec City (81%) and Calgary (85%), both well below the average for all Canadian CMAs (93%)



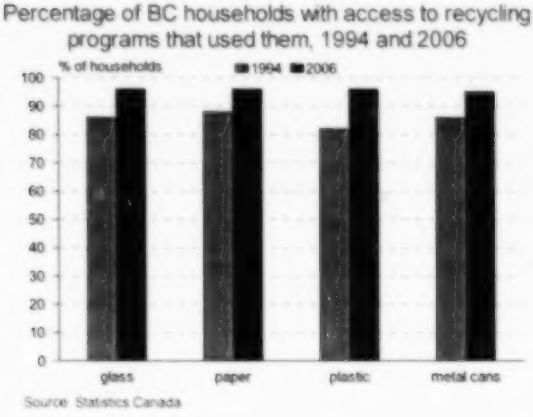
Has access and use improved since the mid 1990s?

Overall, access to glass, paper, plastic and metal recycling programs in BC have all improved substantially over the past decade. Actual usage of recycling programs by British Columbia's households has also increased for all recyclable materials.

This is particularly notable when it comes to availability of recycling programs for plastic materials. In 1994, only 56% of households in the province had access to such programs and by 2006 that number had reached 88%. Other materials such as glass (71% in 1994 to 89% in 2006), metal cans (70% to 88%) and paper (75% to 91%) also showed significant increases in access rates over the same period.



Similarly, usage rates for households with access to recycling programs also showed considerable growth. Since 1994, recycling utilization rates for most materials had jumped about ten percentage points and each exceeded 95% in 2006.



The simultaneous increase in access and utilization of recycling programs suggest that there may have been improvements in collection practices and availability in the province's municipalities and that British Columbians have become more conscious of the significance of recycling.

Similar advances were made across the country between 1994 and 2006. Of the provinces, Prince Edward Island showed the most progress, becoming the country's leader in access and usage for all but one recycling program. In 1994, households on the island had less than 21% access to recycling programs for each recyclable material, and use of each recycling program was below 70%. By 2006, access and use for each recycling program had risen to above 95%.

Looking ahead

A myriad of dynamics influence the keenness to recycle. Social norms, informational campaigning, and barriers to recycling including collection method, distance to drop-off location and required sorting of materials are among the most influential factors. Having access to recycling programs is inarguably one of the key factors that determine whether Canadians recycle and such access varies by province and municipality.

The recent electronic product stewardship plan in BC, which added computers, televisions, computer monitors and computer peripherals to the Recycling Regulation making industry responsible for the lifecycle management of their products, is an example of a stride made to increase the province's recycling options.[6] As such options are developed and spread across the province, so is awareness and ease of the entire recycling process for residents and businesses alike.

All of this contributes to setting the stage for British Columbia to continue on a path towards diverting more materials from the province's landfills and towards significantly reducing waste produced in the province.

[6] For more information on BC's electronic product stewardship plan, visit www.recycling.gov.bc.ca

Infoline

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,380.3	1.4
Canada	32,976.0	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	180,328	6.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	158,335	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	36,649	1.9
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	23,996	5.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep	3,517	-3.7
Merchandise Exports - Sep	2,481	-2.4
Retail Sales - Sep	4,730	0.1
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Oct 2007)		
BC	1.6	1.8
Vancouver	1.8	2.2
Victoria	0.8	1.2
Canada	2.4	2.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov '07	
Labour Force - BC	2,399	0.9
Employed - BC	2,298	1.1
Unemployed - BC	100	-3.3
		Oct '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.2	4.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	5.9	5.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Dec 5/07	Dec 6/06
Prime Business Rate	6.00	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.20	6.40
- 5 year	7.39	6.50
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Dec 5/07	Dec 6/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9908	1.1360
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0141	0.8788
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov '07	
BC	753.78	1.9
Canada	764.36	4.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Country Trade Profiles

Commodity trade profiles for 29 of British Columbia's key trading partners are now available online. The profiles, which contain data from multiple sources, will be updated whenever any of the sources is revised. Check them out at:

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/trade/prt-index.asp

2006 Census Profiles

New! Federal Electoral District profiles

Province profiles

We have profiles for approximately 1,700 different places. New for this cycle is the addition of a comparison area to help you identify which characteristics set a particular place apart from the 'norm'. Since we offer a choice between two comparison areas for each location, there are 3,400 profiles in all. Navigation for the 'A' series profiles is now complete. These feature a comparison to BC, except FEDs are compared to their province and BC (province total) is compared to Canada. For 'B' series, comparisons are to Canada, except CSDs and DPLs are compared to their Regional District, and CTs are compared to their CA/CMA.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/profiles/detailed/choose.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- 2006 Census (Tuesday, December 4th)
  Language, Immigration, Mobility and Migration
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Nov. 2007

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, November 2007
- Tourism Sector Monitor, November 2007
- Exports, October 2007

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